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Security Council

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Identical letters dated 13 November 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the following information:

The illegitimate international coalition led by the United States of America has continued to commit crimes against Syrian civilians in various parts of Syria. Most recently, on 12 November 2018, aircraft of the so-called coalition bombarded the village of Sha'fah and other towns and villages in the Dayr al-Zawr countryside, killing or wounding 60 civilians. Hundreds of civilians were displaced after their homes were destroyed.

In previous letters, the Syrian Arab Republic noted that the criminal coalition's aggressions and barbaric attacks against innocent civilians had taken on a deliberate and sustained character and that the coalition had used various types of internationally prohibited weapons that had indiscriminate effects or were capable of causing mass destruction, such as white phosphorus bombs. It asked the Security Council to act immediately to halt those crimes and prevent their recurrence.

The crime committed by the illegitimate United States-led coalition in the village of Sha'fah, not to mention the massacres that preceded it, point to the total collapse of the complex of values and ethical principles that the United Nations has undertaken to respect and foster since consensus was first reached on the Organization's establishment. This situation has arisen because the United States and its allies have shown utter disregard for those values and principles. These crimes also put on display the extent of this deplorable coalition's contempt for civilian lives and the provisions of international law and international humanitarian law. This horrific crime confirms the points made by the Syrian Arab Republic in its previous letters, most recently in the identical letters dated 10 November 2018 (S/2018/1009); they give the lie to the claims of the United States that its goal is to combat the armed terrorist groups. It is now unequivocally clear that these criminal acts of aggression are intended to kill as many Syrians as possible; prolong the Syrian crisis; further damage the infrastructure; undermine the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic; and obstruct any future solution to the Syrian crisis. Such a course of action is flagrantly inconsistent with all of the resolutions adopted by the Security Council concerning the crisis in Syria.

The Syrian Arab Republic once again calls upon the Security Council to fulfil its responsibility by taking earnest and immediate action to prevent such attacks and

massacres and the systematic destruction of infrastructure in Syria. The Council must take the necessary steps to create an independent and impartial international mechanism to investigate and condemn those crimes and punish the perpetrators. It must ensure that the States of the coalition comply with the Charter of the United Nations, in which crimes of aggression, interference in the internal affairs of States and undermining the territorial integrity of Member States are rejected. The Syrian Arab Republic emphasizes that, if the Council remains silent about these crimes and their perpetrators, it will only encourage the aggressor States to continue murdering and displacing Syrian civilians and destroying their property. The Security Council and the General Assembly will then be completely unable to fulfil any of the responsibilities entrusted to the United Nations and its main organs under the Charter.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative